

Golden Gate Park & the Avenues

Neighborhood Top Five

- 1 Doing what comes naturally in **Golden Gate Park** (p192): skipping, lolling or Lindy-hopping through America's most outlandish stretch of urban wilderness alongside strange flowers and stranger art, and racing the buffalo towards the Pacific Ocean.
- 2 Following Andy Goldsworthy's sidewalk fault lines to earth-shaking art inside the **MH de Young Museum** (p193).
- 3 Enjoying sunsets on the wildflower-topped roof and wild nights at **California Academy of Sciences** (p193).
- 4 Numbing toes in the Pacific and expanding horizons to Asia at **Ocean Beach** (p198).
- 5 Finding foodie nirvana in the foggy outer reaches of the **Richmond** and the **Sunset** (p198) districts.



Explore Golden Gate Park & the Avenues

Civilization is overrated, with its traffic jams and office blocks – but by the time you reach the Conservatory of Flowers in Golden Gate Park, that's all behind you. Hang out with blue butterflies in the rainforest dome at the California Academy of Sciences, or globe-trot from Egyptian goddesses to James Turrell light installations in MH de Young Museum's worldly arts exhibits. Enjoy a moment of Zen and green tea in the Japanese Tea Garden, then summit Strawberry Hill for views over Stow Lake to the Pacific as red-tailed hawks swoop past.

Wander to the Botanical Garden for respite in the redwood grove before hopping the N streetcar all the way to Ocean Beach. Stroll the four-mile stretch of sand to the Richmond for dinner at Aziza and drinks at Trad'r Sam's, or stay put in the Sunset for surf-shopping at Mollusk and dinner at Outerlands or Thanh Long. With food and fog like this, you must be in heaven.

Local Life

- ➔ **Sporting life** Take on new challenges in Golden Gate Park, including roller disco, fly-casting, disc golf and Lindy-hopping (p204).
- ➔ **Foggy days** Stay warm with Trouble Coffee (p201), hoodies from Mollusk (p203), matinees at the Balboa Theater (p202), and rainforest strolls inside the California Academy of Sciences (p193) and Conservatory of Flowers (p194).
- ➔ **Goose bumps, guaranteed** Get delicious chills with bare feet on Ocean Beach (p198), eerily lifelike ceremonial masks at MH de Young Museum (p193), cliff's-edge views along the Coastal Trail (p195) and ice-cream cocktails at Trad'r Sam's (p202).
- ➔ **Outposts of cool** Outlandishness isn't just an aesthetic, but a way of life at Park Life (p203) art openings, Hollow (p202) art-installation coffee breaks, and musical interludes in the garden at General Store (p203).

Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Bus** Numbers 1 and 38 run from Downtown to the Richmond. Buses 5 and 21 head from Downtown along the north edge of Golden Gate Park, while number 2 runs the length of Clement St past the Legion of Honor. Bus 71 hooks around Golden Gate Park on the Sunset side.
- ➔ **Streetcar** The N line runs from Downtown, through the Sunset to Ocean Beach.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Hear that echo across Golden Gate Park? It's probably a concert, and very likely free. Opera divas, indie acts, bluegrass greats and hip-hop heavies take turns rocking SF gratis, from the wintry days of June through golden October afternoons. Most concerts are held in Sharon Meadow or Polo Fields on weekends; for upcoming events, consult the calendar (p22).



Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Aziza (p198)
- ➔ Namu (p199)
- ➔ Kabuto (p199)
- ➔ Outerlands (p201)
- ➔ Thanh Long (p200)

For reviews, see p198 ➔



Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Beach Chalet (p201)
- ➔ Trouble Coffee (p201)
- ➔ Social (p202)
- ➔ Hollow (p202)
- ➔ Plough & the Stars (p202)

For reviews, see p201 ➔



Best Urban Wildlife Sightings

- ➔ Bison (p192)
- ➔ Bank swallows (p198)
- ➔ White alligator (p193)
- ➔ Sea lions (p198)
- ➔ Snowy plover (p198)

For reviews, see p195 ➔